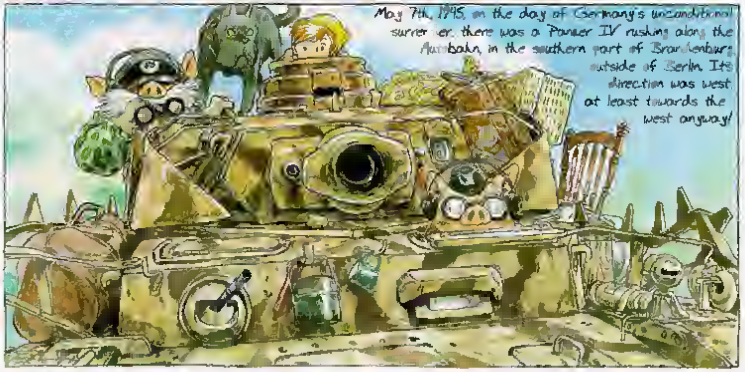
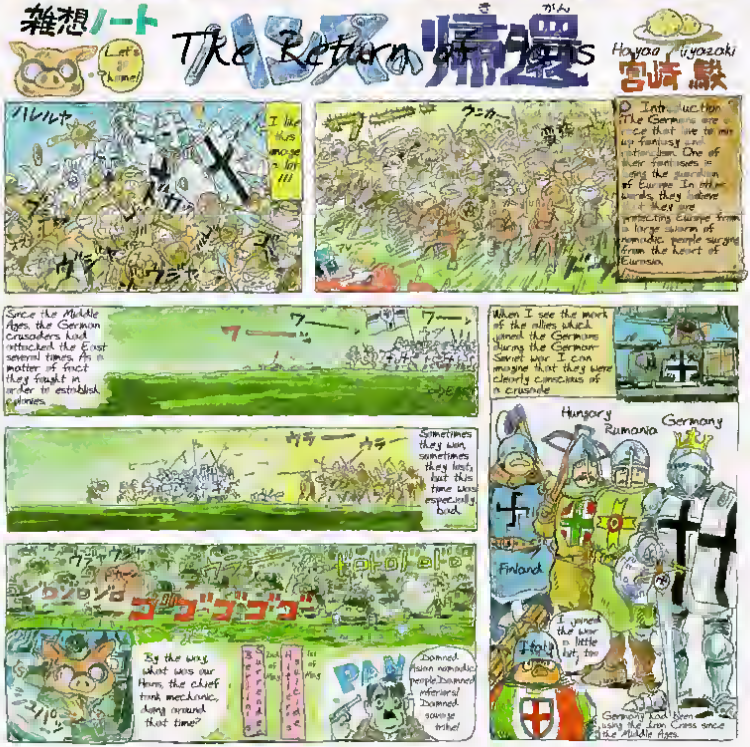




May 7th, 1945, on the day of Germany's unconditional surrender, there was a Panzer IV rushing along the Autobahn, in the southern part of Brandenburg, outside of Berlin. Its direction was west, at least towards the west anyway!

雑想ノート

Let's go home!

The Return of Ages

Hayao Miyazaki 宮崎 駿

ハレルヤ

I like this image a lot!!!

ウニカ

Introduction
The Germans are a race that live to mix up fantasy and rationalism. One of their fantasies is being the guardian of Europe. In other words, they believe that they are protecting Europe from a large swarm of nomadic people surging from the heart of Eurasia.

Since the Middle Ages, the German crusaders had attacked the East several times. As a matter of fact they fought in order to establish colonies.

When I see the mark of the allies which joined the Germans during the German-Soviet war I can imagine that they were clearly conscious of a crusade.

Sometimes they won, sometimes they lost, but this time was especially bad.

Hungary
Rumania
Germany
Finland
Italy

I joined the war a little bit, too

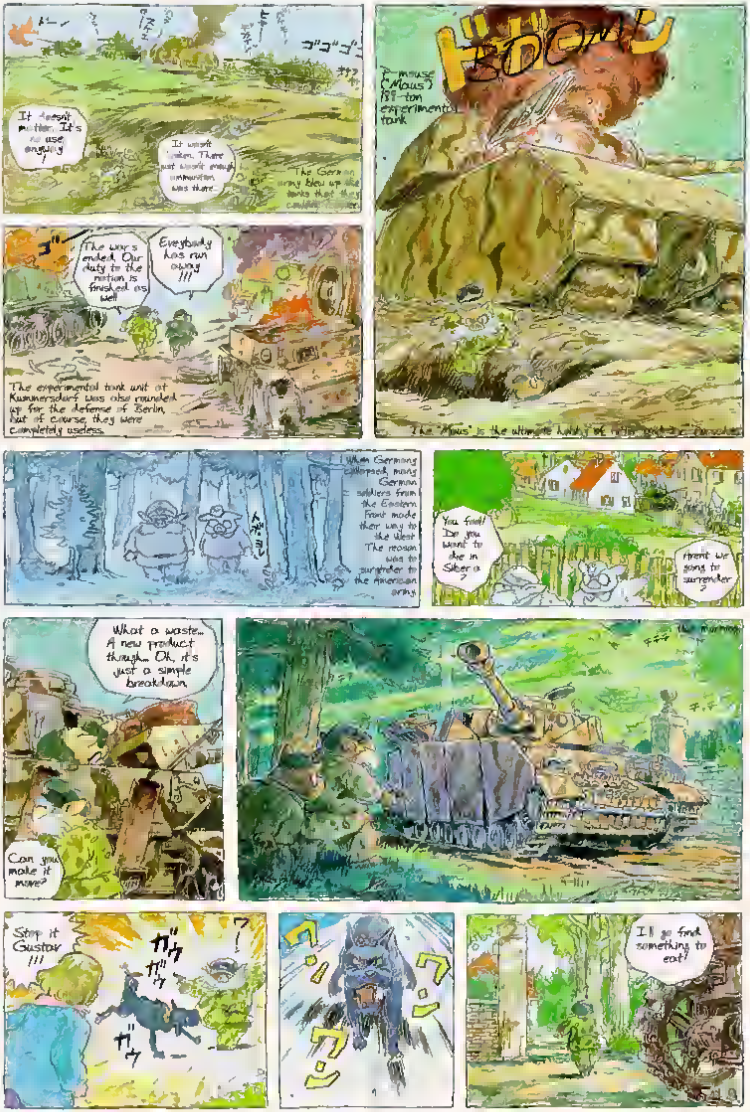
Germany had been using the Iron Cross since the Middle Ages.

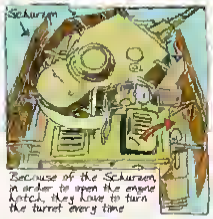
By the way, what was our Hans, the chief tank mechanic, doing around that time?

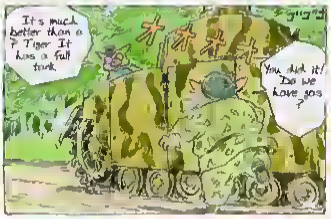
Surrender
Ind. of Mag.
Hostilities
1st of May

PAN

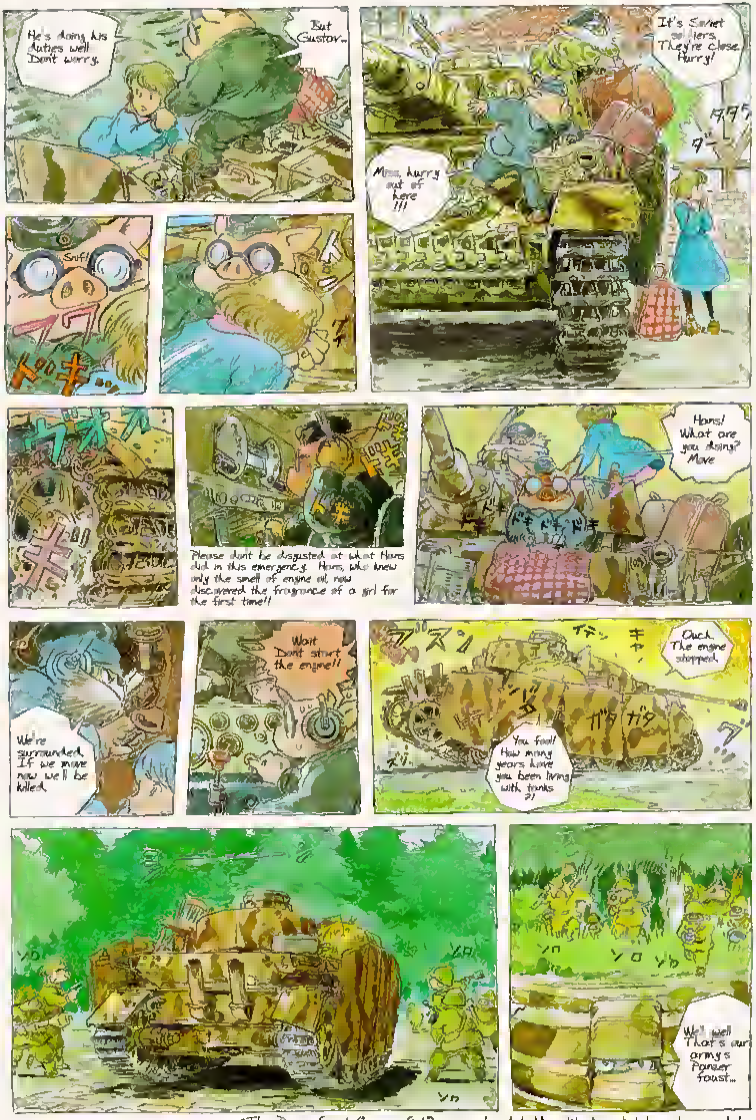
Damned Asian nomadic people! Damned inferiors! Damned savage tribe!


It doesn't matter. It's no use anyway!
It wasn't broken. There just wasn't enough ammunition was there.
The German army blew up the tanks that they couldn't [illegible]
The war's ended. Our duty to the nation is finished as well
Everybody has run away!!!
The experimental tank unit at Kummersdorf was also rounded up for the defense of Berlin, but of course, they were completely useless.
ドゴゴゴ
P-mouse (Maus) 188-ton experimental tank
The "Maus" is the ultimate hobby of [illegible]
When Germany collapsed, many German soldiers from the Eastern Front made their way to the West. The reason was to surrender to the American army.
You fool! Do you want to die in Siberia?
Aren't we going to surrender?
What a waste... A new product though... Oh, it's just a simple breakdown.
Can you make it move?
Stop it Gustav!!!
ガウ
ガウ
ガウ
?!
I'll go find something to eat!



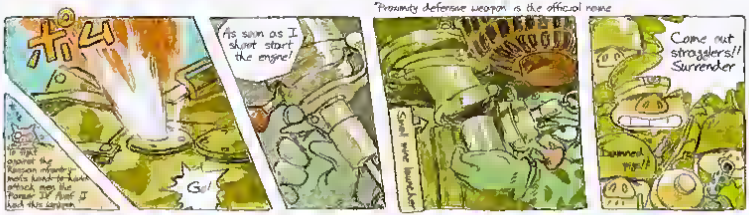


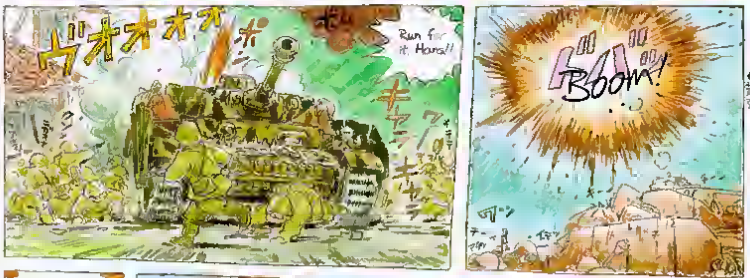
*Tanaka refers to Motoyoshi Tanaka who also worked on Pom Poko. Pom Poko (for which Miyazaki acted as producer) was in preparation during the same period as Miyazaki was drawing the Hotaru no Haka manga.

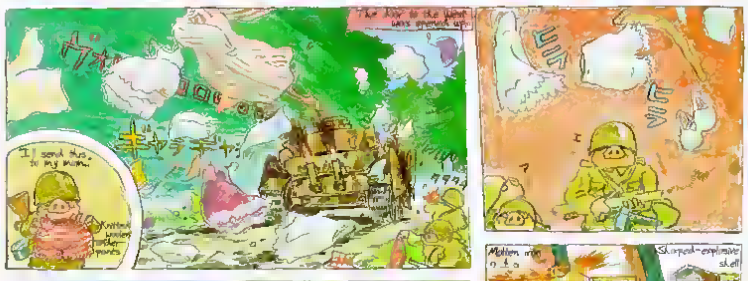


*The Panzerfaust (armor fist) was a hand-held antitank rocket launcher used by the German army during the latter half of World War II

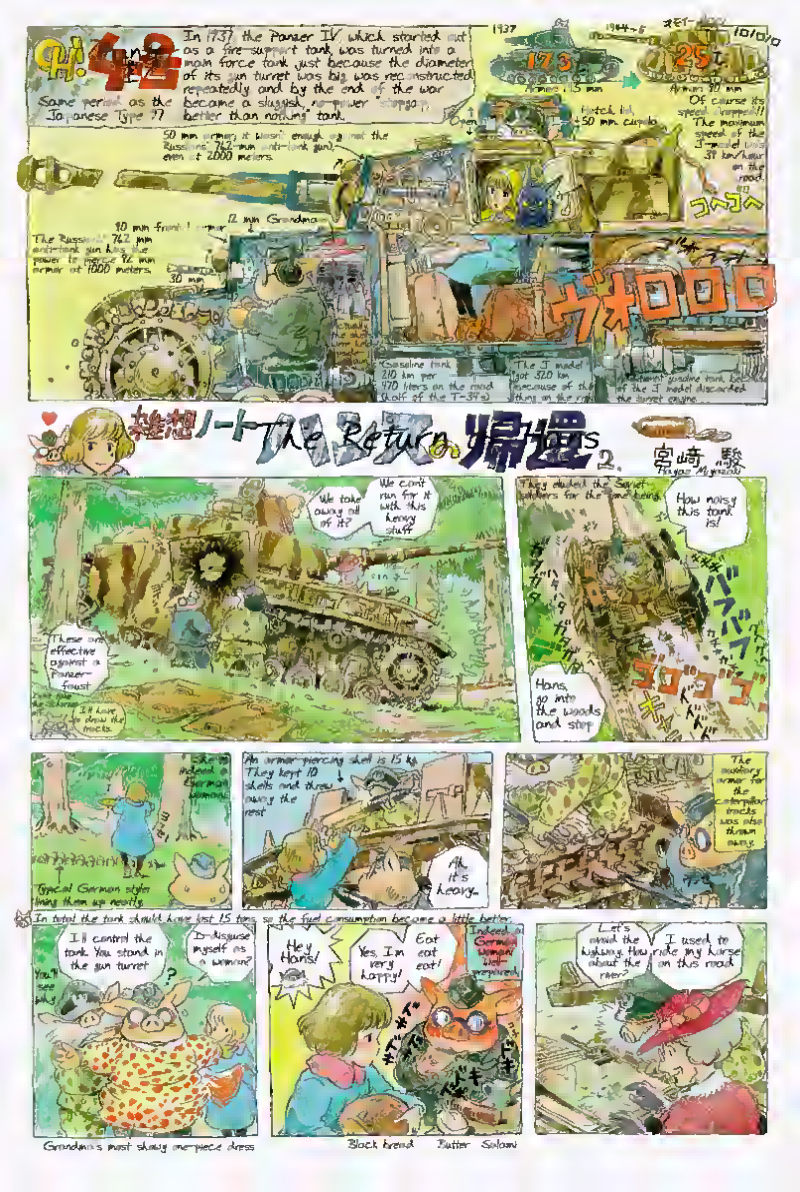
*Proximity defensive weapon is the official name





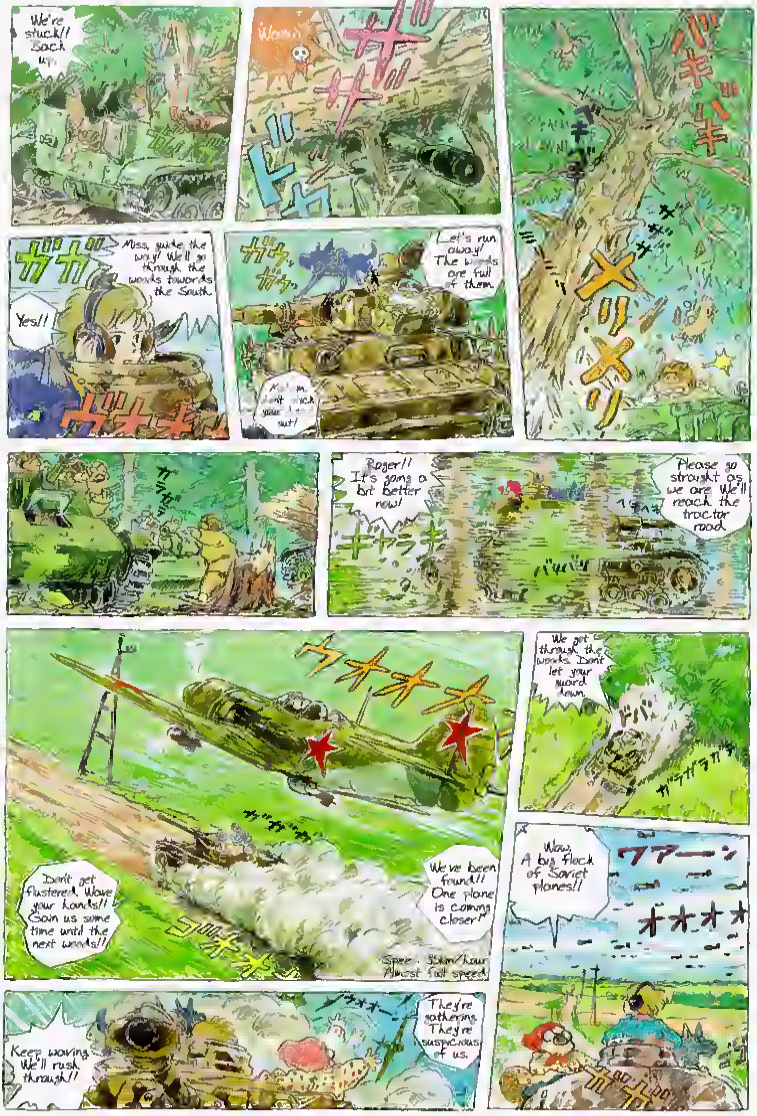


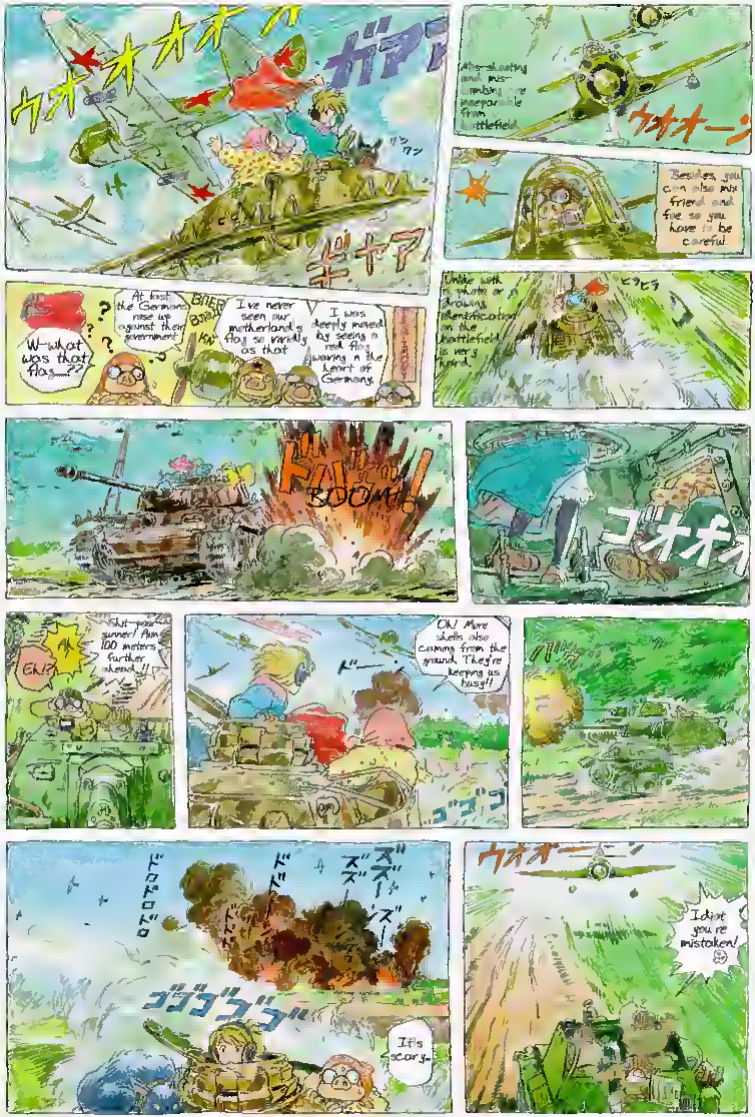
1998 2 10



Q!! 4 in 12
Same period as the Japanese Type 77
In 1937 the Panzer IV, which started out as a fire-support tank, was turned into a main force tank just because the diameter of its gun turret was big was reconstructed repeatedly and by the end of the war became a sluggish, no-power "stopgap" better than nothing" tank.
1937
1944-5
173
25
Armor 15 mm
Armor 90 mm
Of course its speed dropped!! The maximum speed of the J-model was 39 km/hour on the road.
Hatch lid, 50 mm cupola
Open
50 mm armor, it wasn't enough against the Russians' 762-mm anti-tank gun, even at 2000 meters.
12 mm Grandma
90 mm frontal armor
The Russians' 762 mm anti-tank gun has the power to pierce 92 mm armor at 1000 meters.
30 mm
Gasoline tank 210 km per 470 liters on the road (half of the T-34's)
The J model got 320 km because of the thing on the right
Abutment gasoline tank beside the J model discarded the turret engine.
ヴォロロロ
雑想ノート The Return 帰還 2.
宮崎 駿
Hayao Miyazaki
We take away all of it?
We can't run for it with this heavy stuff
These are effective against a Panzer-faust
It's hard to draw the tracks.
They eluded the Soviet soldiers for the same being.
How noisy this tank is!
Hans, go into the woods and stop
She is indeed a German woman.
Typical German style: lining them up neatly.
An armor-piercing shell is 15 kg. They kept 10 shells and threw away the rest
Ah, it's heavy.
The auxiliary armor for the caterpillar tracks was also thrown away.
In total the tank should have lost 1.5 tons, so the fuel consumption became a little better.
I'll control the tank. You stand in the gun turret
You'll see why
D-disguise myself as a woman?
Hey Hans!
Yes, I'm very happy!
Eat eat eat!
Indeed a German woman! Well-prepared.
Let's avoid the highway. How about the river?
I used to ride my horse on this road
Grandma's most showy one-piece dress
Black bread
Butter
Salami

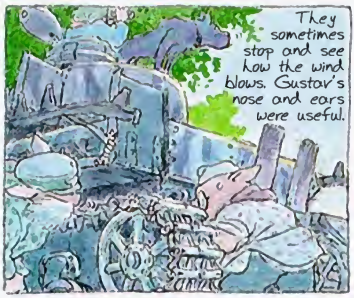
*The instant the tank fires a shell, it is covered by dirt


We're stuck!! Back up.
Miss, guide the way! We'll go through the woods towards the South.
Yes!!
Let's run away! The woods are full of them.
Roger!! It's going a bit better now!
Please go straight as we are. We'll reach the tractor road.
We got through the woods. Don't let your guard down.
Don't get flustered. Wave your hands!! Gain us some time until the next woods!!
We've been found!! One plane is coming closer!
Speed: 35km/hour Almost full speed
Wow. A big flock of Soviet planes!!
They're gathering. They're suspicious of us.
Keep waving. We'll rush through!!

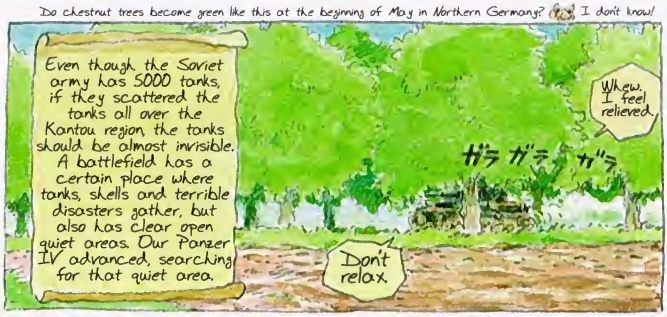


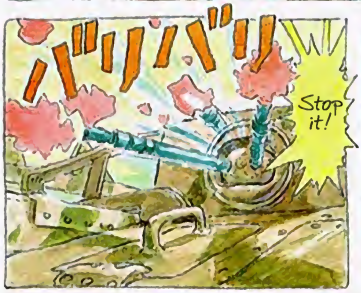
ウオオオオ
ガアア
ギャアア
Mis-shooting and mis-bombing are inseparable from battlefield.
ウオオーン
Besides, you can also mix friend and foe so you have to be careful.
W-what was that flag...??
At last the Germans rose up against their government!
I've never seen our motherland's flag so vividly as that
I was deeply moved by seeing a red flag waving in the heart of Germany.
Unlike with a photo or drawing, identification on the battlefield is very hard.
BOOM!
ゴオオオ
Eh!?
Shit-poor gunner! Aim 100 meters further ahead!!
Oh! More shells also coming from the ground. They're keeping us busy!!
ドーン
ゴゴゴ
ドロドロドロ
ドドド
ズズズ
ズズズ
ゴゴゴゴゴ
It's scary...
ウオオーン
Idiot you're mistaken!

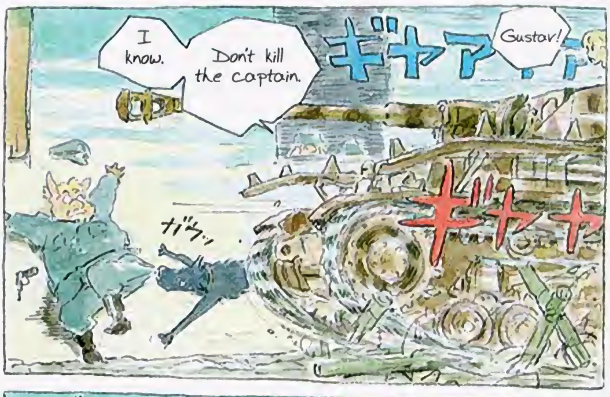
They also adjust the caterpillar tracks by themselves.

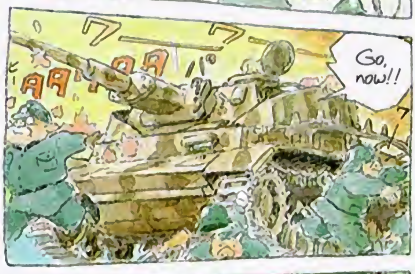


Do chestnut trees become green like this at the beginning of May in Northern Germany? I don't know!

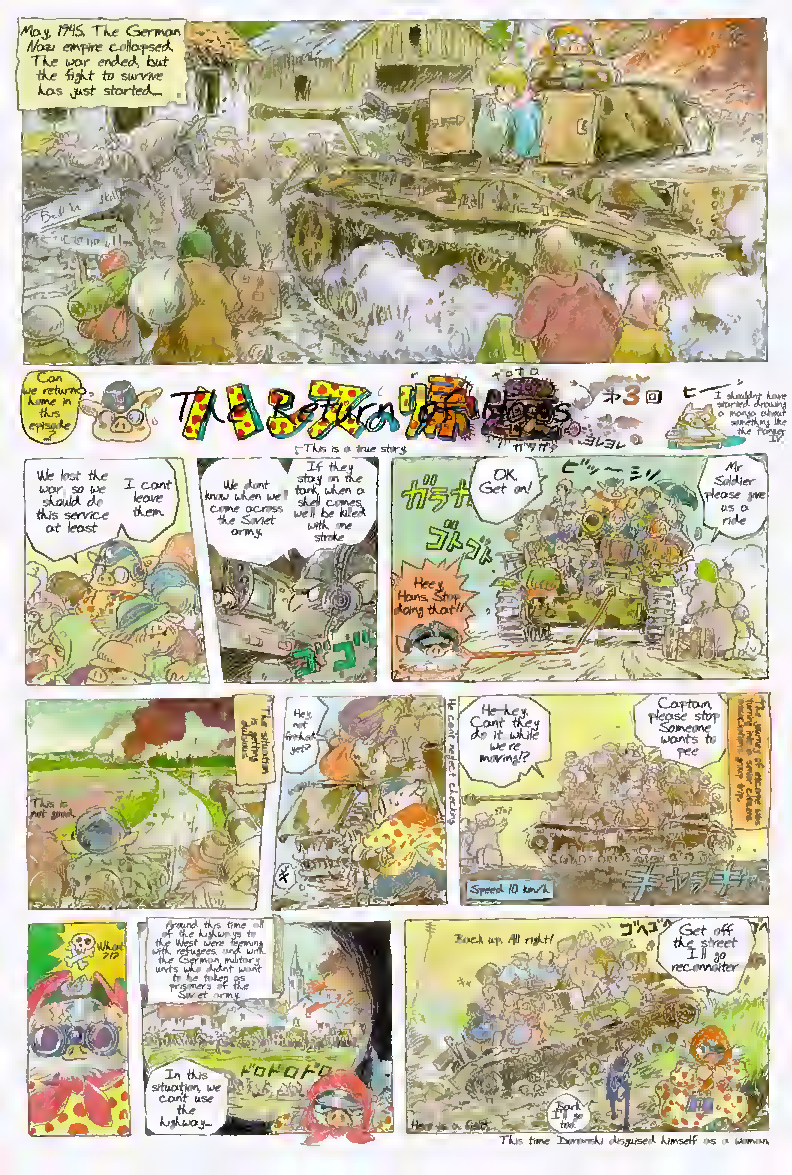




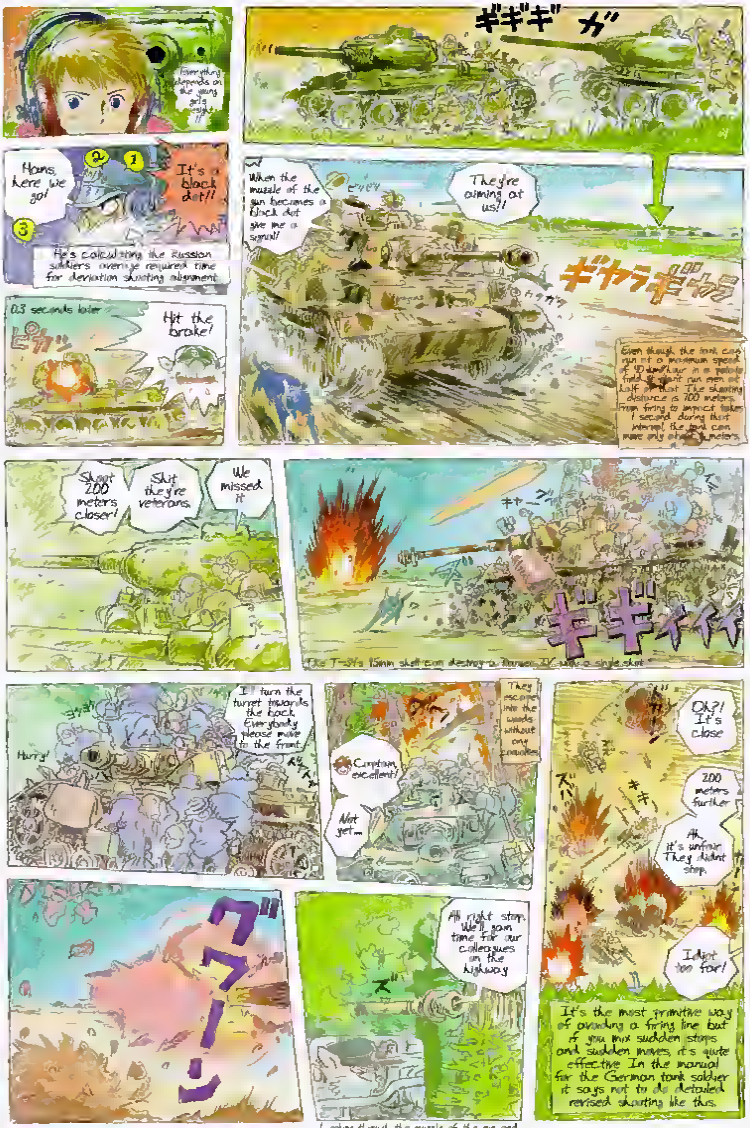




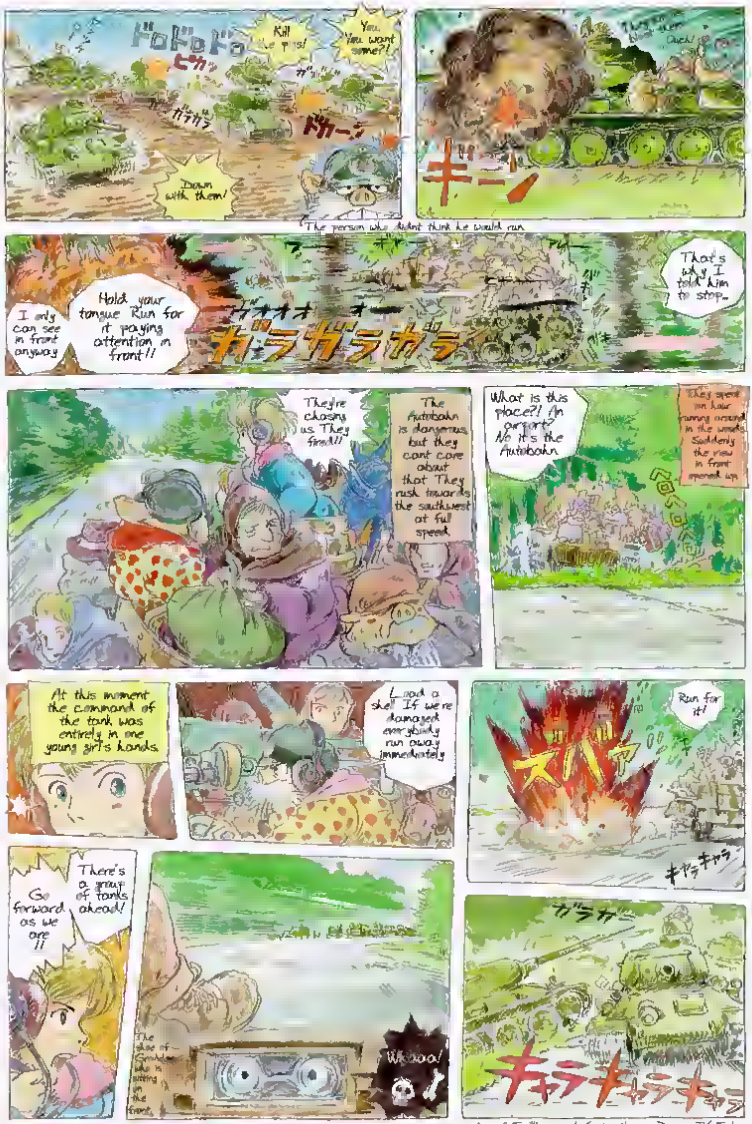
This is not good.


May, 1945. The German Nazi empire collapsed. The war ended, but the fight to survive has just started...
Can we return home in this episode?
The Return Home
第3回
ヒー
I shouldn't have started drawing a manga about something like the Panzer IV.
This is a true story.
We lost the war, so we should do this service at least
I cant leave them.
We dont know when we'll come across the Soviet army.
If they stay in the tank, when a shell comes, we'll be killed with one stroke
OK. Get on!
Mr Soldier please give us a ride
Heey, Hans. Stop doing that!!
This is not good.
The situation is getting dubious.
Hey, not freshed yet?
He can't neglect checking
He-hey. Cant they do it while we're moving!?
Captain, please stop. Someone wants to pee
Speed 10 km/h
What?!?
Around this time all of the highways to the West were flooding with refugees, and with the German military units who didn't want to be taken as prisoners of the Soviet army.
In this situation, we cant use the highway...
Back up. All right!
Get off the street. I'll go reconnoiter
Here is a field.
Back I'll go too.
This time Doronski disguised himself as a woman.

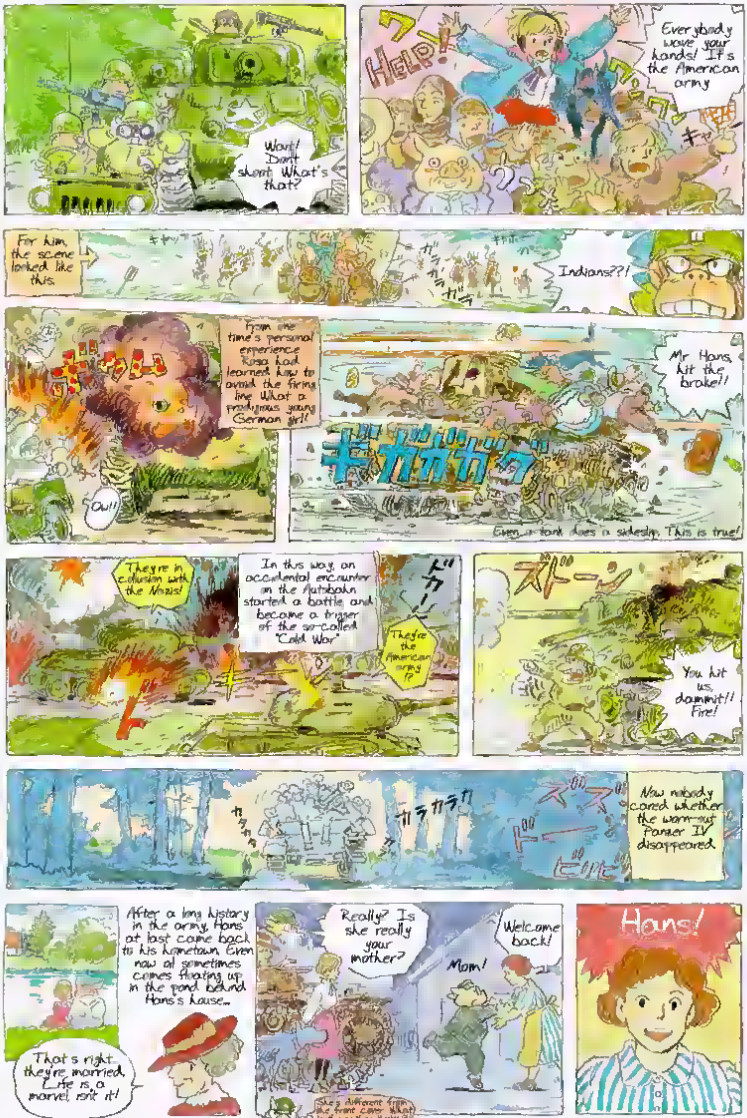
キャラキャラ
There are at least 30 tanks!!
ガラガラ
Captain! A lot of Russian tanks came from behind us...
As I thought
Idiot! Be quiet!!
The Soviet Army's BA-64B armored vehicle
The Russian reconnaissance vehicle is already keeping watch.
If they're calling the attacking forces, the highway will become a sea of blood.
Objection!! I object to your making Miss Rosa get off!!
We'll use the gun turret and be shot at. Being on the tank is dangerous.
We can't forsake our friendly troops on the highway. We'll have to gain even a little time for them.
Everybody please get off and escape on your own feet
Put the children into the gap in the gun turret!!
Someone please load the gun for us.
Hans, hide the tank behind the embankment and advance 100 meters! First of all, we'll clean up the reconnaissance vehicle
Everybody gather behind the gun turret!
It's all or nothing.
Throw away the bulky luggage!!
As long as you do your best we won't complain about the result
Captain, isn't it all right if we remain as we are?
You look your heart to Rosa.
ズリズリ
Don't cling so tightly. The turret can't turn.
Cover your ears. I'm going to shoot!!
Ah, Grandma, please pull your head down.
Yes.
As soon as I shoot we'll rush into the woods on the left-hand side. Miss, please stand watch outside.
キャラキャラ
ゴロロロ
At the same time the Russian soldiers also [illegible]
It doesn't matter. Go forward!!
Our colleagues on the highway should have noticed that!!
ゴキゴキゴ
クワッ
I missed it! This gun sight is wrong.



Everything depends on the young girls sight!!
ギギギ ガ
Hans, here we go!
It's a black dot!!
He's calculating the Russian soldiers average required time for deviation shooting alignment
0.3 seconds later
Hit the brake!
When the muzzle of the gun becomes a black dot give me a signal!
They're aiming at us!!
ギャラギャラ
Even though the tank can run at a maximum speed of 90 km/hour in a potato field, it can't run even at half of that. The shooting distance is 700 meters. From firing to impact takes 1 second during that interval, the tank can move only about 9 meters.
Shoot 200 meters closer!
Shit they're veterans.
We missed it
ギギイイイ
Hurry!
I'll turn the turret towards the back. Everybody please move to the front.
They escape into the woods without any casualties
Captain, excellent!
Not yet...
Oh?! It's close
200 meters further
Ah, it's unfair. They didn't stop.
Idiot too far!
It's the most primitive way of avoiding a firing line but if you mix sudden stops and sudden moves, it's quite effective. In the manual for the German tank soldier it says not to do detailed revised shooting like this.
グワーン
Ah right stop. We'll gain time for our colleagues on the highway
Looking through the muzzle of the gun and deciding on the own... this way works well.



A T-34 is much faster than a Panzer IV. To be caught up with by the Russians became only a matter of time.


Wait! Don't shoot. What's that?
HELP!
Everybody wave your hands! It's the American army
For him, the scene looked like this.
Indians??!
From one time's personal experience Rosa had learned how to avoid the firing line. What a prodigious young German girl!
Mr Hans, hit the brake!!
Ow!!
Even a tank does a sideslip. This is true!
They're in collusion with the Nazis!
In this way, an accidental encounter on the Autobahn started a battle and became a trigger of the so-called "Cold War"
They're the American army!?
You hit us, dammit!! Fire!
Now nobody cared whether the worn-out Panzer IV disappeared.
After a long history in the army, Hans at last came back to his hometown. Even now all sometimes comes floating up in the pond behind Hans's house...
That's right. They're married. Life is a marvel, isn't it!
Really? Is she really your mother?
Welcome back!
Mom!
She's different from the front cover. What is the author thinking?
Hans!
おわり
(The End)
1994.9.11